

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 54

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Linda M. Lopez

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A
12 COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS AND
13 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ASSIST
14 IN THE STUDY.

15
16 WHEREAS, farming and ranching are the lifeblood of New
17 Mexico, with centuries upon centuries of Native American,
18 Hispanic and Anglo families making their living and their lives
19 from the land; and

20 WHEREAS, agriculture is vital to New Mexico's economy,
21 environment and culture and it is important to conserve,
22 protect, encourage, develop and improve agricultural land for
23 the production of agricultural products and to reduce the loss
24 to the state of its agricultural resources by limiting the
25 conversion of farmland or ranchland to development; and

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1 WHEREAS, in many parts of the state, agricultural
2 resources are in danger from urban pressures, such as land
3 being taken out of production for development and agricultural
4 water rights being sold for urban uses; and

5 WHEREAS, thousands of agricultural acres each year are
6 prematurely or unnecessarily converted to urban uses and farms
7 and ranches are impinged upon by urban sprawl; and

8 WHEREAS, as urban centers expand, the resulting increase
9 in land values discourages investments in farm and ranch
10 improvements;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
13 requested to appoint an interim committee to study the need to
14 protect agricultural resources in New Mexico through the
15 creation of agricultural districts, the use of conservation
16 easements, the limiting of eminent domain powers and other
17 methods; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
19 agriculture be requested to assist the committee in its study;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its
22 findings and recommendations to the second session of the
23 forty-eighth legislature; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative

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council.